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“
A clinical trial involves so much more than popping a few pills—as they are sometimes portrayed on television.”
”



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Statistically Speaking

Alum gives students a first-hand application of what they're studying

Sally Jongsma

Professor Marv Wielard knows that students in his statistics classes often feel that what they're studying doesn't really speak to their lives. In fact, Wielard comments dryly, "They think it's dry as dust."

So when Wielard heard that a member of his church, Dordt alum Cheri (Oostra, '93) Horstman, was participating in a clinical trial, he had an idea for helping students in his class understand the concrete ramifications of what they were studying.

Data collection is one of three main areas Wielard covers with his students, and clinical trials are a main area of focus. So he asked Horstman to speak to his students about her experience as part of a clinical trial. The conversation not only gave students a better sense of why clinical trials are important and why they need to be so carefully executed, it also helped them understand that gathering data for such studies affects people's lives very personally.

Wielard's colleague Dennis De Jong, who teaches a basic mathematics course on a variety of topics, including statistics, also invited Horstman to his class.

"It was just excellent," De Jong says. "In the class before, I had talked about what a randomized experiment is. Cheri explained it so well."

"A clinical trial involves so much more than popping a few pills—as they are sometimes portrayed on television," says Horstman. And participating is not something to be taken lightly. "Participants are almost always in a fairly dire situation," she adds. "You feel very vulnerable. It's a very personal thing." Despite that important element, Horstman talked primarily about the logistics of the trial. It's still too early to talk about the personal wrestling and the range of emotions that accompany such an experience.

Horstman and her husband,



Mark ('93) and Cheri (Oostra, '93) Horstman's son, Eli, will continue to be a part of the clinical study at Vanderbilt University until the age of two and a half. The Horstmans have nothing but good to say about the way the study was conducted and how they were treated as participants.

Mark ('93), were in the fifth month of pregnancy when they learned that their unborn child had spina bifida. Their doctor alerted them to a national study being done to determine whether pre-birth surgery is beneficial for children born with spina bifida. The procedure was not a cure but an attempt to give children a better quality of life. The hypothesis was that the surgery would stop hydrocephaly in the uterus and after birth, eliminating the need for implanting a shunt to drain fluid. Shunts invariably cause problems later.

There was also evidence to suggest that the surgery might improve the child's ability to walk and his bladder control—two typical problems for children born

with spina bifida.

Cheri Horstman described the steps they had to go through in making the decision to participate. They first needed to be screened to see if they qualified for the clinical trial, and then had to decide whether or not they should participate.

They did opt to become part of the study, but not without a great deal of research, reflection, and prayer. The decision meant they had to go to Nashville for tests. If they were randomly selected to have the surgery, Cheri would have to remain in Nashville for the duration of the pregnancy, with a caregiver present the whole time. They were selected.

The Horstmans admit that although they initially considered

participating in the hope that it would help their child, in the end they decided to join the study to further knowledge about spina bifida.

"All of our children now have a greater chance of having children with a neural tube defect," Cheri says. "We were asked repeatedly whether we were putting our hopes on the benefits of the surgery. In the end, we could honestly say 'no, that is not the reason we are doing this.'" They came to realize that their hope was in something much more sure: God's grace and love for them and their unborn child.

Cheri underwent *in utero* surgery in her sixth month of pregnancy. Eli was born on April 17, the day after Easter, at thirty-seven weeks. Holding off that long was an answer to prayer, even though Cheri was more than eager to be home after twelve weeks in Nashville. In one sense, the results were disappointing: Eli needed to have a shunt put in four months after he was born. But the Horstmans are not sorry to have made the decision they did. "We had access to people who know more about spina bifida than anyone in the world," Cheri says, adding that the medical staff was fabulous, "the best of the best."

Cheri is sure that it was hard for students without family responsibilities and children of their own to understand all they went through, but, she wants them to know that behind all of those hard cold numbers, are real, often hurting people who make these studies possible and who benefit from the results.

As Cheri wrote in a final e-mail from Nashville to the many family members and friends who supported them throughout the months: "I feel like our long haul is ending, but I don't really know what other long hauls God has in store for us. But that's okay. God is walking with us. He will prepare us and the final destination is so worth the walk."

Principles Across the Cultures

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

When you try to communicate cross culturally, it sometimes helps to use self-deprecating humor. Humor helps defuse two of the leading barriers to delivering an effective cross-cultural lecture. A joke told at your own expense can help eliminate a spirit of presumptuousness, the tendency to lecture folks from a different culture as to why your culture is better. A humorous look at yourself can also get the audience past a disinterest bred by the all-too-common feeling that nothing in your own cultural experience could possibly apply to their culture.

This fall I had several opportunities to put this into practice. I was invited to lecture at three Reformed universities in Korea; I attended an international conference on Christian Higher Education in Nicaragua with delegates from thirty-three other countries; and our campus hosted a delegation from the Reformed University of Zwolle in the Netherlands. Our initiative toward a “College without Borders,” about which I wrote in an earlier *Voice*, is well underway.

In these various cultural settings, I told one story several times, and it seems to have communicated across the cultures. It’s the observation that author James T. Burtchaell makes about Dordt College in his book,

The Dying of the Light. Reverend Burtchaell observes that Reformed Christians tend to think that writing a long document about orthodoxy is really the same thing as practicing good biblically-based behavior. He notes that Dordt College had written a mission statement for KDCR “that is several times longer than the Athanasian Creed.” In other words, the whole of Christian orthodoxy can be summed up in fewer words than Dordt College uses to describe one small Christian radio station.

I think the reason this story resonated in so many different cultures is that Reformed Christians everywhere have the same tendency: when faced with a problem, our instinct is to write a position statement; when deciding a course of action, we commission a study. In itself, that’s not bad. In fact, in lectures I give on preserving the biblical character of a university, I always emphasize the importance of writing insightful statements of principle by which we can measure our behavior and performance. The problem, however, comes when we write the statement but don’t take the next step and actually do it.

To be sure, unreflective activity won’t

keep us faithful. Without reflection and measurement by previously articulated principles, our colleges and universities are likely to drift with whatever cultural tide seems to be flowing. And unless that

tide happens to be Christian—and sometimes even if it is Christian—we’re bound to lose our biblical principles. Historians of the decline of Christian higher education often point out that selling the soul of the college to gain fame, notoriety, or popularity may bring organizational prosperity but that college likely will no longer embody the principles on which it was founded.

So how do we avoid these extremes: just talking about our principles, on the one hand, or just following the contemporary practices around us, on the other.

This is exactly why cross-cultural conversation is critical. I can go to Korea, Dutch educators can come to America, or we can all meet in Nicaragua. We can talk about the way in which all of us with Reformed biblical convictions are seeking to work out those principles in higher education in vastly different cultural settings. We don’t have to start by debating

esoteric position papers. Instead we can begin by talking about the various practices among us and about their similarities or differences. If they are similar, we can ask what common principles underlie those similarities. If they are different, we can ask whether we are working out of similar principles that just happen to be practiced differently in different cultures. We might also ask whether some of us may have missed an important biblical principle altogether.

Mutual growth in biblical understanding comes only when we are all willing to consider the possibility that others may be doing things better than are we, when we start not by locking horns in abstract debate but by examining our practices in the light of cross-cultural biblical reflection. Only then can we reform our own work in our own culture in the light of what we have learned from others.

I am convinced that the “College without Borders” concept is helpful—perhaps even essential—in enabling academic leaders like me to do a biblically faithful job in our respective cultural settings, including Sioux Center, Iowa. I’m also convinced it will enrich the educational experience of our students. After all, truly biblically-based education needs to express the reality that our entire world belongs to the God to whose glory and honor alone our studies are dedicated.



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Christians gather to further a holistic understanding of Christian Higher Education

Sally Jongsma

Christian academicians from thirty-four countries gathered in Nicaragua in November for Congreso Internacional 2006, sponsored by the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua. This was the seventh global conference put on by the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE), which has its offices on the Dordt College campus. Six faculty members or administrators from Dordt College attended, as well as former president Dr. John B. Hulst and emeritus professor Dr. John Vander Stelt.

The 145 delegates at the conference discussed ways in which their shared worldview directs and shapes their work across a wide variety of disciplines. Executive Director Dr. Nick Lantinga describes that approach as coming from a holistic Christian perspective building on C.S. Lewis’s and Abraham Kuyper’s concept of declaring Christ’s lordship over every square inch of Creation.

The conference was organized around the theme “Christian Higher Education in a Global Context: Implications for Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Administration.” It included three tracks

- How does Christian higher education bridge gaps between competing worldviews and culture?
- How can Christian higher education



In a formal resolution brought to the floor of the conference on its final day, Dordt College was thanked and recognized for its faithful support of the IAPCHE organization over the past several decades. The delegates met at the Convent of San Francisco in Granada, Nicaragua.

assist Christian elementary and secondary schools?

- How does Christian higher education prepare students to serve in specific regions with specific crises—such as AIDS, political repression, economic disparity?

“These are not just intellectual issues,” says Lantinga. “Like Dordt’s emphasis on serviceable insight, discussions must include

both a theoretical understanding of issues and practical ways to respond and serve.”

The conference reflected a commitment to working together and learning from each other globally. The event was conducted in both Spanish and English. Rev. Dr. Jose Alcantara, newly elected chair of the board, is from Mexico. The 145 delegates came from thirty-four countries.

One delegate from Nigeria, when first

asked to consider attending, thought it would be another event where white people got others together to teach them. He left edified by the wonderful opportunity for Christians from all areas of the world to speak and learn together, says Lantinga.

Part of the success of and the need for the international conference are the growing numbers of Christian educational institutions around the world. Nearly 100 new colleges or universities have begun in Africa in the last decade. Christians in Africa have grown from ten million in 1900 to 360 million in 2000. Within the next decades, China will count more Christians than the United States, says Lantinga. He gets calls to the IAPCHE office regularly from new Christian institutions looking for resources and advice. Just in the past weeks such calls have come from Liberia, Thailand, and Northern India. Each faces its own cultural and regional challenges, but they are trying to educate from the shared worldview of Christ’s lordship over creation.

Lantinga quoted Dr. Richard Mouw’s expansion on Kuyper’s square-inch quote, noting that students need to seek out a square inch for which they are prepared to suffer as they develop an understanding of what the Lord requires of them.

“I was overwhelmed by the spirit of trust that pervaded the conference,” says Lantinga. “There was extraordinary diversity, but one Lord and one faith. It had intimations of Revelation.”

Faculty "wellness program" thrives

Sally Jongsma

This year’s new faculty members recently finished teaching their first three courses at Dordt College. They also completed a fourth “course” or, more accurately, seminar. The new faculty orientation seminar in which all new faculty members participate ended in December. In previous years the orientation began in September and ran all year. This year's sessions began in August.

“It makes more sense to cover topics like preparing course syllabi, understanding assessment procedures, learning about campus resources, being introduced to the history and mission of the college, and meeting people from other offices before classes begin,” says Dr. Calvin Jongsma, who has coordinated the program for the past five years. Jongsma proposed the change last year, and this year shared responsibility for the two-week August session with Dr. Barb Hoekstra, the Coordinator for Instruction.

Recognized as strong teachers, Jongsma and Hoekstra combined their expertise and personal strengths to reshape the seminar so that instructors, especially first-time teachers, would have more concrete instructional help before they met their classes. Jongsma brings both a long history with the college and a broad philosophical understanding of the mission of Dordt College. Hoekstra, who describes herself as very practical, recently completed her dissertation on teaching Christianly and brings practical instructional expertise. Both have a passion for teaching and for the education Dordt College provides its students

“It just worked,” says Hoekstra of the two weeks. “Discussions were very rich, free flowing and peppered with humor, laughter, and personal anecdotes.” The morning sessions were divided in half, combining more theoretical discussions with practical information. Seminar participants read fifty to eighty pages of material for each day, learning about Dordt’s history and confessional and ecclesiastical context, examining its educational statements, and digging into books on Christian teaching and curriculum. They also developed a strong sense of camaraderie, were introduced to writing course syllabi, learned where to get things copied, and discovered who to contact when they needed something.

Hoekstra, who works with faculty to keep raising the level of teaching and instruction at Dordt College, describes the approach as a “wellness program,” getting people ready before they begin so that they have the tools they need to be good teachers. She is co-leader of the pre-semester session, giving direction on issues of pedagogy. In addition to sharing her expertise, she gains a better sense of the faculty needs she should address in her role as coordinator for instruction.

The coordinators tell participants that the purpose of the orientation is “to acquaint you with what makes Dordt College tick and help you develop in ways that will better enable you to contribute to and renew the Christian academic culture of teaching and scholarship the college strives to maintain.”

Jongsma shares another goal for the program. In the past decade, there’s been a sixty percent turnover in the Dordt College



Dr. Calvin Jongsma has led Dordt's new faculty orientation for the past five years, each year refining it to make it more relevant. This year involved the biggest change since he's begun, a pre-semester two-week session in which he shared coordinating responsibility with Dr. Barb Hoekstra, Dordt's Coordinator for Instruction.

faculty, and Dordt is not alone in this situation. Institutions across the country are seeing large numbers of professors retiring. To maintain an institution’s identity, its faculty need to know what that identity is and how they can contribute to it. “This is especially true in mission-driven institutions like Dordt College,” says Jongsma.

He tries to help new faculty understand Dordt’s mission and its vision for achieving that mission. Faculty need to be able to work together to fulfill the educational goals that have made Dordt College the institution it is, Jongsma says. “This gives a venue for both the institution and its new faculty to look at each other and see if they like what they see,” says Jongsma, who plays no role in assessing faculty for contract purposes. He enjoys moderating a frank and open dialogue between differing

ideas and points of view to help people find common points of reference.

Jongsma also tries to be a resource for faculty as they work out the college’s vision in their teaching and scholarship. “Dordt’s educational documents are not just hot air—they really function,” he says. He offers assistance as faculty go through some of the professional steps required on the way to permanent contracts.

Each year’s group of new faculty is different. Some come in with professional experience or a strong academic background but little or no teaching experience. Others may come in as experienced teachers but still need additional academic training. Some know a great deal about Dordt’s vision, others know only a little. Trying to meet all of those needs can present challenges, but it’s exciting, say Jongsma and Hoekstra. As this

year’s program concludes, they look forward to similar lively and thoughtful discussions with a new group next year.

New faculty member Gary De Young appreciated the comprehensive nature of Dordt’s new faculty orientation program. An experienced teacher, he has been through four faculty orientation programs ranging from “Here is your office. These are the courses that you are to teach” to a few days focusing on policies, procedures, and information. “Dordt’s new faculty orientation program recognized the needs of new inexperienced faculty by offering intensive help on the details of course preparation and by helping us reflect on what it means to teach at a Christian institution of higher education. The new faculty orientation program is essential for new faculty to feel a part of and to participate more fully in the vision of Dordt. The importance that Dordt places on this is reflected in the reduced teaching load of new faculty, and this is not lost on the new faculty.”

Through it all, strong relationships have been established. New football coach John Heavner says, “The new faculty orientation has been very helpful to me. I have most appreciated the relationships I have developed.”

Others expressed appreciation for the balance of philosophical and practical issues addressed. All felt they benefited.

“I liked the round-table atmosphere. We had a sense of going through important matters together, even when we were being instructed,” said one, and another noted that while it required time and effort, “It didn’t really feel like work.”

Said a third, “I think it is a great way to start life at Dordt. I now know eight other people who will be encountering a lot of the same experiences and challenges that I will. I am comforted to know that I can count on them to be a support throughout the year.”

Goals of the New Faculty Orientation

Upon successfully completing the New Faculty Orientation Program, you should:

- Be better oriented to the people, places, and practices connected with the college.
- Be more fully acquainted with key moments in the history of Dordt College.
- Understand and be able to work within Dordt’s distinctive approach to its educational task.
- Have further developed your pedagogical insights and instructional capabilities.
- More fully understand the academic implications of a Reformational Christian worldview.
- Be able to articulate, in a beginning



New faculty also participate in a structured mentoring program to give them regular support, encouragement, and other information that they need or want as Dordt College professors.

way, a distinctively Reformational Christian approach to scholarship in your field.

- Develop a sense of belonging at the college and camaraderie with one another.



Jon Kooima

In Memoriam

The Dordt College community was saddened by the death of freshman student, Jonathan Ross Kooima, on the afternoon of November 29.

Kooima was returning to his dorm room following a game of racquetball when he collapsed. He was rushed to the Sioux Center Community Hospital by EMT personnel, but never regained consciousness. An autopsy revealed that the cause of death was an acute asthma attack, cutting off oxygen to the lungs. A prayer service attended by students, faculty and staff was held that evening at Dordt College's B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Kooima was a native of Ridgecrest, California. He was studying engineering at Dordt, where he was selected to participate in the Kuyper Scholars Program in Christian Scholarship, which provides academically gifted students with scholarly challenges. His dream was to be an architect, designing durable, aesthetically pleasing, affordable housing, says his KSP instructor Dr. Mary Dengler.

Kooima was remembered at a memorial service held on campus on Tuesday, December 5. Students, his college pastor and Sunday School teacher, President Zylstra, his advisor, and his grandmother read Scripture and spoke remembrances of Jon during the service. A number of local members of his extended family also attended. He is remembered as kind and selfless, with a quiet confidence, devoted to his family, and firm in his faith.

A funeral service was held on December 7 in Kooima's hometown. He is survived by his parents, Harlan and Kim Kooima, and six siblings.

Education students better understand poverty

Jane Ver Steeg

What is it like to live in poverty? Over 100 students at Dordt College got a taste of the daily challenges faced by thirty-seven million Americans by participating in a poverty simulation on November 6.

Presented by Iowa State University Family Life field specialist Rhonda Rosenboom, and Sioux County Extension education director Cheryl Heronemus, the "State of Poverty Welfare Simulation" was sponsored by the Dordt College FACT Club (Future Active Christian Teachers) and included students majoring in education, social work, youth ministries, and other career programs at Dordt.

The exercise was designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family, trying to survive from month to month. The goal was to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income families.

Dordt's 115 student participants were assigned a role in a "family" for the three-hour simulation. Family members attempted to provide basic necessities and shelter during four fifteen-minute "weeks." Each family was assigned different circumstances: some were newly unemployed, some recently deserted by the primary wage-earner, others were disabled or senior citizens.

Surrounding the meeting room were tables of volunteer staffers, who represented community resources and services (a grocery store, food pantry, bank, employment office, welfare office, pawnbroker, etc.). Throughout the simulation, students encountered the same challenges many families face daily: choosing between paying the mortgage



Big Dave's Pawnshop was a popular location in the poverty simulation at Dordt College, as students tried to sell their limited "possessions" to come up with enough cash to pay for family necessities.

or eating; not having the funds to pay for medicine; waiting in long lines for services; and turning to crime when there seems to be no other way out.

"I thought of myself and Zelda (the wife assigned during the simulation) as moral people, but around the third week when we hadn't eaten, we went from being civilized to looking to take advantage of others," recalls one student assigned the role of a seventy-five-year-old man. He was not alone. In discussion time following the simulation, many students confessed that, as their situations became more desperate, they were drawn into illegal activities such as dealing drugs and stealing from others to avoid losing their homes and to feed their families.

"Frustrated, helpless, and overwhelmed" summed up the students' reactions to the simulation. But family life specialist Rhonda Rosenboom said she was impressed with the

creative solutions at which some students arrived to successfully endure their month of simulated poverty.

Many participants said their attitudes toward the poor were affected by the simulation. The county extension education director challenged education majors to remember this experience as they become teachers. "Some families may need to choose between a meal or the money for a fieldtrip. Sometimes those children that habitually 'forget' their cap or gloves may actually not have the funds to buy them," commented Heronemus.

The poverty simulation is a copyrighted learning tool created by the Reform Organization of Welfare (ROWEL). ISU Extension staff members have conducted nearly fifty simulations across the state for church groups, educators, social workers, health care providers, clergy, and community volunteers.

Graphic art majors join election ballot research effort in Nebraska

Jane Ver Steeg

Three graphic design students and professor David Versluis served as members of the Nebraska ballot design group for the November 7 general election.

Students Mason Welsh, Rachel Clemens, Rob Haan, and professor David Versluis researched pilot tests of newly designed ballots in Hartington, Nebraska, used in the Cedar County vote.

The Dordt group conducted observations and satisfaction evaluations of the redesigned ballot and Election Day signs. On Election Day, voters could provide feedback to members of the design team at polling sites. This feedback will allow election officials nationwide to continue to improve the readability and usability of ballots.

"This was a tremendous opportunity for us to become more engaged in all aspects of graphic design and see elements of the world that can't be demonstrated in the classroom," said Welsh. "I also felt that it was a chance for

us to provide a public service, not just locally, but in a project influencing our whole nation. I very much enjoyed the experience and am very grateful that God was able to use us in this way."

Haan said that working on the project was a really good way to start thinking about other aspects of design that aren't regularly thought about while working on design projects. Haan added that it was also a good opportunity to meet some professionals working in the field of design.



This initiative is the result of a cooperative research project between Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale's office, Cedar County Clerk David Dowling, Colfax County Clerk Sharon Bohaboj, and Design for Democracy.

"This partnership places Nebraska at the forefront of such research in the nation," Gale said.

"Design for Democracy," an initiative of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), was begun after the 2000 national elections uncovered various problems in ballot design. AIGA now serves as a consultant to the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act of Congress.

Professor Versluis said, "We were excited to be a small, but important part of the design process for this significant project. This kind of design is known as information design and something I talk to students about, because of its strong service to community aspect. This was a special opportunity to serve the AIGA."

Psychology raises its profile at tenth annual conference

Sally Jongsma

It's been ten years since the first psychology Student Research conference was held on campus. Each year students from Dr. Sherri Lantinga's experimental psychology class present the research they've done during the fall semester. Presentations this year included the effects of swimming on memory, the effects of a puppy on mood, and the effects of advertising on four-year olds' cereal consumption.

This year the department invited not only current students and faculty but also psychology alumni. Those who live close

enough were invited to the Campus Center to hear the presentations, see displays, talk with students, and enjoy cake and coffee. Those who live too far away or who couldn't get to campus on December 13 were invited to visit the conference website at <http://www.dordt.edu/academics/departments/psychology>. Alums were also asked to share notes of encouragement with those about to embark on careers in the field of psychology.

The presentations were accompanied by cake and coffee as a way to highlight other efforts planned to increase campus and community awareness about what students can do with a psychology major. Plans are

underway to hold a spring lecture series that will focus on a topic of interest both to Dordt students, the community, and high school students. One tentative topic being considered for this spring is Alzheimers disease.

By inviting psychology alumni to the annual conference, faculty hope not only to connect their students with alumni professionals, but also to begin to lay the groundwork for a Psychology Alumni Scholarship. Dordt does not have a specific scholarship for psychology majors, and the department would like to see that change. They hope alumni will feel the same way.

Campus Capsules



Mrs. Deborah Haan

In Memoriam

Mrs. Deborah Haan died on October 2. Mrs. Haan spent most of her adult life in Sioux Center. From Dordt's beginning until her husband, Rev. Bernard Haan retired as Dordt's first president, she served with him as gracious hostess, faithful co-worker, and trusted advisor.

Mrs. Haan was a leader in her own right. She led Bible studies at First Christian Reformed Church for many years. She taught catechism and a Friendship class; she led the girl's society, was a president of the Siouxland Missionary Union, and served as a pastoral assistant.

She also gave leadership in the community as a speaker for many women's organizations, a hospital volunteer, president of the Christian School Guild, and host of a KDCR daily program "From the Family Room."

In addition to her many supportive roles at Dordt College, she directed plays and pageants during the college's early years. In 2005, she gave the 50th Anniversary graduation address.

Mrs. Haan will be remembered by many, but especially her six children: Katie, Elson, Deborah, Bernard Jr., Mamie, and Enno and twenty-seven grandchildren. The Haan family requests that any memorials be directed to The B.J. and Deborah Haan Teacher Education Scholarship at Dordt College.



The Dordt performance of alumnus Mark Du Mez's adaptation of *Little Women* was only the second performance of the piece and the first in a "black box" theater.

Du Mez's *Little Women* plays at Dordt

Sally Jongsma

When theater and music major Amy Blok began thinking about what to direct for her required senior show, she knew she wanted to do a musical.

But most musicals have huge casts and are three hours long. As she was looking through the literature for something manageable, Professor Jeri Schelhaas received an e-mail from Mark Du Mez ('96), telling her about the recently finished performance of a show he had written—a musical adaptation of *Little Women*. Du Mez is currently artistic associate at the Chemainus Theatre in British Columbia.



Mark Du Mez

"I looked at the script and loved it. I've always loved the story, *Little Women*, so to be able to direct a musical version of this story is a wonderful treat," Blok says.

Using a play written by an alumnus and being able to work with him for two days in early October, only added to the experience. "It

was wonderful to get the author's perspective on the piece," Blok says.

Du Mez and Blok spent time talking about the characters and staging for the play. Directors and actors usually ask themselves what the writer is thinking about, says Du Mez. "Having the writer available makes that part of the process easier." Because his visit to campus came very early in the production schedule, he led more general workshops on such things as helping the actors understand the historical setting and the characters.

"Meeting with Mark helped me understand the piece much better," says Blok.

Most plays that are not published do not have detailed stage directions included—such notes often come from directors, Professor Jeri Schelhaas adds. By visiting campus Du Mez was able to convey more of his intentions and also share what the Chemainus Theatre had learned.

Du Mez's adaptation of *Little Women* was written for performance at Chemainus last year. "Theater's always need Christmas fare," says Du Mez, who has written other theatrical adaptations of books. Because of the high cost of royalties, a theater that has writers on staff can often commission their own adaptations just as economically.

Du Mez collaborated with composer Jim Hodgkinson to create the musical, performed on the first two weekends in December at Dordt College. Du Mez believes it is a versatile script that can be performed by both professional theaters and high schools.

"I think the lyrics and music are strong," he says. "It's not dark—it's a family piece, a coming of age story. I think we nailed a good sense of family; I'm proud of the relationships we were able to develop."

"There are many moments that I love in the play," says Blok. Her favorite is the song that Beth sings to reassure Jo that even though she is going to die, Jo will survive. "It's a wonderful song that I think a lot of people will be able to relate to." Blok also likes the fact that the piece is set both during Christmas and during the Civil War. "It combines a wonderful, joyous, and family-filled holiday with the harsh realities of war."

"It was great to be back," says Du Mez about his visit in October. In addition to working with the *Little Women* cast during his visit, Du Mez led an acting workshop and presented a puppet demonstration of a show on which he was currently working, an adaption of Max Lucado's *You Are Mine* for Chemainus Theatre's KidzPlay series.

Interest builds in Dordt's new pre-architecture program

One of Dordt College's newest programs, pre-professional architecture, is attracting interest from prospective students since its introduction last fall.

Dordt's innovative "four plus three" pre-architecture program is designed to lead to a Master of Architecture degree and a career as a licensed architect. A unique aspect of this program, says advisor David Versluis, is the choice of two paths leading to graduate school: via art or via engineering science.

The art major emphasis fits artistically-inclined students who prefer to focus on imaginative work and developing concepts. The engineering science major emphasis is for students more interested in the technical and mechanical aspects of architecture. Both programs provide the prerequisites needed for acceptance into graduate-level architecture programs.

Professor Tom Leslie from Iowa State University, who recently spoke on campus, says today's architecture programs are less purely technical.

"We still spend a great deal of time on structure, environment, materials, code compliance, etc. But we (like many other schools) try to do this more from a designer's perspective, with less math than in previous generations and with more on basic concepts and integration. This reflects a field that has become, for better or worse, more willing to rely on consultants for the more serious technical issues."

Leslie says architecture students still need basic trigonometry and plenty of algebra and graphing, but not at the advanced levels expected in the past, adding, "The discipline of a good math course, obviously, is helpful no matter what!"

"Dordt has equipped me in both the structural and the creative aspects of architecture," says Brett Van Andel, a senior from Lynden, Washington, who noted that the art courses he took have enhanced his creative sense of design. Well established programs in art, engineering, history, and philosophy also contribute to the emphasis and make Dordt College an excellent place to prepare for a career in architecture.

Duane Bajema finds ways to serve

Dr. Duane Bajema began teaching in the agriculture department at Dordt College nearly thirty years ago. The experience he's gained over those years allows him to be a different teacher today than he was when he began.

"I don't need to spend as much time figuring out *what* to teach and instead can spend time figuring out *how* to teach in a way that meets the needs of students who have lots of things going on their lives, students who live in changed times and a changed culture," he says. That means that he can't teach the same way or use the same examples that he did years ago.

Bajema is outspoken about his desire to serve the Lord by helping students learn what they need to serve him in their lives. He hopes that students leave his classes with a better understanding of who they are and who they serve, and with the feeling that God has given them a wonderful opportunity to enjoy and unfold as well as feel, smell, and see the creation in which they are placed. He also hopes they will be able to say that he respected them, even if they disagreed with him, and that, in some way, he helped them grow in their faith.

Like all faculty, Bajema's day fills up faster than he can control. He begins by sorting through his overnight e-mail, a task he says has grown over the years. It's



Duane Bajema

also one he regrets, believing that e-mail has replaced much face-to-face interaction between students and professors. Other daily tasks such as grading, preparing for class, negotiating students' concerns, making sure maintenance knows about a leaky faucet in the lab, writing letters of reference, and attending meetings leave little if any larger blocks of time to work intently on one thing.

Bajema probably attends more meetings than most in his role as chair of the faculty. In that capacity, he and faculty secretary

Hubert Krygsman attend academic council meetings, lead faculty meetings, and meet with individual faculty members to help heal broken relationships, encourage good communication, and generally advocate on the part of the faculty.

"The chair of the faculty doesn't have any spelled-out authority, but it does carry a big load of expectations," he says, expectations he is willing to meet to the best of his ability. He wants to serve and encourage, supporting faculty in any way he can and recognizing the diversity of people and needs in the institution. Just as important is helping faculty serve one another.

Bajema is energized by both his students and his relationships with other faculty, but both can also weigh heavily. Dealing with tired or bored students preoccupied with personal problems takes strength and grace, as does dealing with conflicts and weighty issues.

"It's not always obvious how best to serve people," he says. At that point he's thankful that he lives outside of town on a small acreage. He goes home, changes his khakis for his blue jeans and, whether tending his bees or doing other chores around the farm, regains both a sense of peace and tranquility and the energy he needs to continue to serve in the variety of ways he is called to serve in his life.

Dea Lieu prepares for his return home

Dea Lieu left his hometown in Ivory Coast when it was invaded by rebel troops. For four months, he and his wife and five children lived in the jungle to be safe, leaving their home behind.

"If you had a good position in the community, they thought you had money. They would kill you if you didn't give them money," says Lieu, a senior agriculture major. But after four months, the family could not live in the jungle any longer. Rather than go to a refugee camp, Lieu decided to use the time to prepare for "when things got better" in Ivory Coast. He began looking for a school where he could study both agriculture and theology. His wife and children went back to the city, but still face very unsettled conditions. He prays for them and worries about them daily.

At home, Dea ran an agriculture ministry for his church. "We have a responsibility to people in our community who don't have enough to eat, to help them grow the food they need," he says. Dea, who lived in a rural city, has some farming experience. He took a one-year program at a local agriculture institute and worked closely with agricultural missionaries in his country. When he graduates in May he will return to his country to continue his work and try to put to use some of the things he's studied.

Dea came to the United States four years ago and began attending a junior college in Tennessee that offered him tuition and told him they had some theology courses he could take while he took agriculture courses. Once there, he began searching the internet for a place to finish a four-year degree.

"Dordt College was the only college I found that offered both an agriculture program and theology," he says, adding,



Dea Lieu

"The teaching is good here. I've learned more about some things I knew a little about, and I've learned about many things I knew nothing about."

He'll go back to Ivory Coast eager to try to share what he's learned with his community, so that they can better support themselves and so that he can be a witness to the gospel through his agriculture ministry.

One thing he's learned, in particular, will shape his work.

"My people use fire to burn stumps and debris from their fields," he says. He's learned that fire depletes the soil of crucial nutrients. Every year small farmers move their fields from one area to another, clearing more and more forest to find soil fertile enough to produce what they need to feed themselves.

He knows that changing practices used for hundreds of years will be difficult. But he is committed to helping his people see that

there is a better way—using compost and replenishing the soil rather than depleting it. He hopes to entice them by convincing them that they will be the first ones to benefit from a new approach.

"Farming is difficult in Africa," he says. "We don't have machinery to help clear and farm fields." That is why people resort to burning as the easiest way to clear the land. Dea hopes that by improving soil fertility and increasing yields, farmers will be able to do more than barely feed themselves—they will be able to sell food in the cities and better support themselves.

Rice is a staple food in Ivory Coast, but small farms are not very productive. People in his country prefer the rice they can grow themselves, but they cannot grow enough. He hopes to find ways to help his people improve both rice production and other crops. He also knows that the civil unrest will make it difficult to bring change.

Although he's eagerly looking forward to rejoining his family and praying for things to improve, life is difficult in Africa, he says.

"People in your country can't imagine what we face every day in Africa," he says in his quiet, calm way. Yet he believes God has put people in different places, and they must find ways to serve him where they live. His firm faith and his love for his family and community make him eager to return—even though the danger is not over, despite improvements due to U.N. peacekeepers.

Even though he has been living in safety, he worries daily about his family. It's not easy to live in an affluent society without money, especially money to call your wife and rapidly maturing children. Yet Dea's strong faith and hope in God's promises give him peace and a ready smile to those he meets.

Volleyball **Coach Tom Van Den Bosch** was one of three people selected for induction into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association's Volleyball Hall of Fame in November.

Van Den Bosch came to Dordt College in 1997 and has 327 college coaching wins to his credit. The Defenders have qualified for the NAIA National Tournament six times, reaching the national quarterfinals three times and the semifinals once. He has also been accorded conference coach of the year honors in the South Dakota Iowa Conference and Great Plains Athletic Conference seven times and was selected Regional coach of the year four times. In 2003 Van Den Bosch was named the NAIA national coach of the year.

Dr. Mary Dengler, associate professor of English, presented her paper, *A Reformed Defense of Literature: An Apology for Literature's Place in Christian Higher Education*, at the Mid-East Conference on Christianity and Literature at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, in October.

As a member of the CCCU Board (Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities), Dengler met with the other board members to review the Oxford Program and discuss issues that pertain to the Christian arm of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Dengler and **Dr. Tony Jelsma**, co-directors of the Kuyper Scholars Program, attended the NCHC conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in November. They participated in seminars and workshops on honors courses.

Education professor **Ed Starkenburg** was part of an Iowa Department of Education program approval team that reviewed the Teacher Education Program at the University of Dubuque. This was the tenth state review team Starkenburg has worked on in the past eight years. Teams averaging six people work together to review the education programs



Van Den Bosch



Dengler

according to the procedure outlined in Iowa law. They meet six to eight weeks before the visit to review the program's institutional report and spend four to five days on the campus interviewing all stakeholders, administrators, and community members to verify the information in the report. They then issue a report to the program regarding strengths, weaknesses, and necessary improvements. Each of the thirty-two teacher education programs in Iowa go through such a review every five years in order to receive state Department of Education accreditation.

Dr. Paul Fessler, professor of history, presented a paper "The Alleged Drawbacks of Bilingual Education: A Longitudinal Tracing Study of Minnesota Germans" at the Social Science History Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 2. The paper is part of Fessler's ongoing research on immigration and bilingual education.

Dr. Edwin Geels, professor of chemistry, attended the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers in Marshalltown, Iowa, on November 17 and 18. Geels presented a paper titled, "Reduction of Parasites and Diseases in Small Cell Honeybee Colonies." Geels also participated in a round table question and answer session with other presenters.

Art Professor **Susan Van Geest's** artwork "Waiting" will be published in the Winter 2007 issue of *CALYX: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women*.

On November 13, **Dr. Douglas Allen**, professor of physics and astronomy, participated in a panel discussion at Wheaton College on "Global Climate Change: A Faithful Response," sponsored by Wheaton's Center for Applied Christian Ethics. His presentation was titled "Is the Sky Falling? A Brief Overview of Climate Change Science." More details along with audio archives are available at <http://www.wheaton.edu/CACE/>.

A slightly revised version of the keynote address **Dr. Calvin Jongsma** gave at the 2006 B.J. Haan Education Conference on Teaching Math in the Christian School was published in October, 2006 in the online *Journal of the ACMS* (<http://www.acmsonline.org/journal2006.htm>). The title of the article is "Mathematics: Always Important, Never Enough—A Christian Perspective on Mathematics and Mathematics Education."

Librarian **Sheryl Taylor** participated



Abby Jansen

New Instructor begins

Ms. Abby Jansen has been hired as an instructor of social work. She began in December, setting up field placements for social work majors and will begin teaching at the start of the spring semester.

Jansen ('02) earned her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, with a focus on the management of human services, communities, and social systems. She recently left a position as a Faith Outreach Organizer in the five-state north central region for Bread For The World. Previously, Jansen was a human resources assistant for Neighborhood Senior Services in Ann Arbor, Michigan; an intern at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, Inc., also in Ann Arbor; and a service coordinator for Lutheran Social Services.

in the National Center for Education Statistics' week-long Cooperative Systems Fellows Program. The NCES, a branch of the Department of Education, selects thirty people each year to participate. The NCES Program was initiated in October 1990 to improve the quality, timeliness, and comparability of education data and, at the same time, improve cooperation among local, state, and higher education agencies, as well as libraries and the Federal Government.

Seven professors and students attended

the National Council of Teachers of English conference in Nashville (Nov. 16-19): Professors **Dave** and **Jeri Schelhaas**, **Lorna Van Gilst**, **Leah Zuidema**, and pre-service English teachers Jason Elenbaas, Sarah Achterhof, Katie Dekins, and Leesa Schmidt. Zuidema participated in a panel of early-career English teachers who discussed their collaborative work under the topic "How Many Cups of Coffee Does it Take to be the Compleat Teacher?" The conference theme was "The Compleat English Teacher," "compleat" alluding to Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*.

Professor Emeritus **Dr. John Van Dyk** continues his consulting work with teachers around the world. In August he conducted the orientation in-service session for the Rock River Christian Schools (Inwood, Doon, Rock Valley, and Hull Christian Schools) in Doon, Iowa. In September, he conducted teacher training sessions in the Philippines for BBK (Christian schools oriented to a Reformed perspective) on several islands, and he served as consultant to the BBK board in the planning for a Christian teacher training college. He also participated in and presented at the Educational Leadership Consultation (organized by Christian Schools Canada) in Toronto.

In October, Van Dyk was also busy: he conducted workshops on board-staff relations for board members and principals, at the Heartland Convention in Sioux Center; he gave four keynote lectures at the Christian teachers' conference in Riga, Latvia (where about 350 teachers were present); he gave a lecture on fostering a reflective culture (the topic of his forthcoming book) for faculty and administration at Ichthus College in Veenendaal, The Netherlands, and consulted with various Christian educators in the British Columbia and Seattle area.

Dr. James C. Schaap was a keynote speaker in October at the Prairie Association of Christian Schools' annual convention held in Lethbridge, Alberta. He spoke about helping students see God's wonder through teaching. He also presented workshops on where stories come from, how to use writing and visuals in power point and podcasts, and what makes stories seem so real.

Dr. John Visser, professor of business, participated in the research expo at the IAPCHE Congresso Internacional in November. Visser discussed the relevance of religious beliefs for economic activity and the impact they have. He also discussed ways development agencies can take into account religious beliefs and how these issues can affect policy-making.

Professor **Mark Volkers** was the producer of DVDs for two Christian ministries. "Hope in the Delta: Cary Christian Center's Delta Strategy" was produced by Volkers, with much of the camera work done by Dordt students Matthew Berkenpas, Jonathan DeWeerd and Aaron Huisman. The thirteen-minute video tells the story of what God is doing in the Mississippi Delta through the efforts of the Cary Christian Center.

A DVD for ATLAS highlights three mentors and three clients as they work together through some of life's complicated issues. ATLAS is a Christian mentoring organization with branches in several states. Both the Cary and ATLAS DVDs were produced by Prairie Grass Productions, the production arm of Dordt's digital media program.



DORDT COLLEGE

Faculty Openings

To learn more about a position and receive application materials, qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vita/resume to:

Dr. Rockne McCarthy
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dordt College
498 Fourth Ave NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Facsimile: (712) 722-4496
E-mail: vpaa@dordt.edu
Web site: www.dordt.edu/offices/academic_affairs

Dordt College is seeking applications in the following areas:

August 2007

Communication Faculty (Possible opening)

Teach courses from public relations, journalism, cross-cultural communication, film history and criticism, as well as Introduction to Public Speaking.

Economics Faculty (Possible opening)

Teach introductory and upper division courses in economics.

Health, PE, Recreation Faculty (Two positions)

A regular appointment and a one-year appointment. Teach general courses in health, PE, and recreation. Some coaching is also expected.

History Faculty (Possible opening)

Teach Western Civilization and upper-level courses. Fields of specialty open, with willingness to teach non-Western.

Psychology Faculty (Possible opening)

Teach courses ranging from general psychology, research methods, biopsychology, statistics, learning theory, cognitive, and experimental psychology.

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.

One Week in October:

A look at the arts at Dordt College

Between October 14 and 21 more than a dozen art events happened on campus. They ranged from a film festival to art shows, concerts, recitals, plays, poetry readings, a puppet show, a sculpture exhibit, and more. The arts are alive on campus, and they enrich the lives of both students and visitors.

Prairie Grass Film Challenge

Phillip Van Maanen knew he wanted to participate in the Prairie Grass Film Challenge as soon as he heard about it. “Growing up, my family didn’t own a camcorder, but my dad would bring one home from work once in a while. My brothers and I would make short movies and commercials about random stuff,” says Van Maanen. “Our longest movie was ‘Abs of Tinfoil,’ a workout video to promote health, hygiene, and happiness. We made other short movies and commercials along the lines of *Saturday Night Live*. All of this was when camcorders used VHS tapes, so our editing involved recording and stopping at the right times. If we started laughing, we rewound the tape and recorded over the laughing.”

Van Maanen still loves making movies. For the Prairie Grass Film Challenge, instead of his brothers, he enlisted the help of fellow students Gary and Joelle Riezebos, Dale Vande Griend, and his wife Elizabeth. Vern Eekhoff from Dordt’s maintenance staff and Natalie Ysselstein also joined the group. Their film, “Sweet Surprise” won the first place, \$500 Dordty Award at the screening held on October 13.

The Prairie Grass Film Challenge has specific rules that each of the nine teams had to follow. The goal was to write, shoot, edit, and output a short film in forty-eight hours. Organizers tell participants that with a lot of teamwork, a lot of creativity and not a lot of sleep, they can produce a festival-winning film and walk away with a hefty cash prize.

Registered teams received a genre, a prop, a character, and a line of dialogue, on Wednesday, October 4. They had to

write the script, do all filming, choose music, and edit it into a finished film by 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning, October 7. Entries were judged on the basis of

- best overall film
- entertainment value
- story and production values
- content worth consuming
- use of prop, character, line of dialogue, and adherence to genre.

Van Maanen and his team were surprised they took home the \$500 first prize. “When you see your movie so many times, you see all the flaws and mistakes. I saw every one—which made me think there was no way we could win,” he says, adding, “It was a nice surprise that we won, but I think the best part was making the movie. I don’t know if I have ever laughed so hard in one weekend. We had some frustrations, but we mostly had a lot of fun.”



Gary Riezebos

Harpsichord Recital

With its lovely spruce sound board, its twenty-two carat gold leaf trim, and its bone keys, Dordt’s new harpsichord looks more impressive the closer you get to it. The sound is impressive from near or farther away. The audience was certainly impressed with its sound at the inaugural recital on the instrument held on Parents’ Weekend.

Dr. Robert Horton gave a masterful performance of pieces by Handel, Haydn, Telemann, and Bach, highlighting the sound and quality of the new instrument and playing more notes in one evening than anyone would want to count. He was joined by two Dordt College music faculty adjuncts, Stephanie Kocher on flute and Eunho Kim on violin.

Playing a harpsichord is different from playing a piano.

“It can’t be muscled,” says Horton. “You need to let the instrument do its work. Playing is a partnership” On a harpsichord the sound comes at the top of the key as it moves down; on a piano the sound comes once the key is all the way down. Playing harder does not create more sound, so performers must fill out the texture of the music by improvising a swirling texture of

rolls, ornaments, and strums. The new harpsichord replaces an older instrument that was built during the harpsichord revival in the 1960s and constructed more like a piano. Today’s instruments are made more like the harpsichords of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Horton says. With their lighter frames, today’s instruments create fuller, better sound.

“You don’t need heavy woods because the harpsichord doesn’t need to sustain the same tension that a piano does,” says Horton.

Newer models, such as the one the Dordt music department recently commissioned from Dr. Adam Decker of Atlanta, do not dampen the sound, but let it sing. In addition to spruce, the instrument uses pear, basswood, and oak. In traditional fashion, the Dordt harpsichord is painted with a pigment used during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is banded with 22-carat gold leaf and uses patches of “Dutch gold,” natural unfinished wood that looks almost like gold leaf from a distance and was used especially in the Flemish court.

The new harpsichord is much more sensitive to humidity and must be kept in climate controlled areas, but it is used for piano lessons. The instrument needs to be played regularly, and both students and faculty have regular access to it.



Voice 9

Sally Jongsma

Art is a way of knowing the world,” says art professor Susan Van Geest. “The arts humanize. They help us see both literally and metaphorically. They allow us to view life from another’s perspective, to imagine, to question, to wonder.”

“I remember one student saying to me after reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, that simply reading the novel taught her more about race relations in America than a whole course she had taken on the topic,” says English professor James Schaap. He argues that literature draws us into the human condition better than any other force or institution or cultural medium.

“Part of being human is to put more of ourselves into a task than just the bare essentials,” adds music professor Robert Horton. He asks, “Why settle for a snapshot when you can compose a photograph? Why paint a house in off-white when you can create a palette of finishes and colors?”

Art professor David Versluis elaborates. “Psalm 104 praises God for the gifts of wine that gladden a person’s heart and oil to make the face shine, as well as bread to strengthen a person’s heart. We can thank God for providing gifts that go beyond the basics and that allow us to live more fully.”

According to Versluis, the psalmist suggests that as God rejoices in his creation, so we should also rejoice both in God and in his creation. Like the psalmist, who spends his lifetime praising God, our praise, through Christ, is made pure and becomes acceptable to God.

“The psalmist writer is a poet, a singer, a player, an artist,” says Versluis. “Perhaps we would do well to view the psalms more artistically and with playful insight. There seems to be a correlation between the gift of art and responding to God’s mercies and celebrating life. In Christ, art is not about luxury, but about service, obedience, and humility.”

The arts professors at Dordt shape their answers to “What makes art important?” in different ways, but all agree that it is one very important way we know, live,

and respond to God and our world. It’s part of how we were created—with an aesthetic gene, if you will. But although their responses and areas of expertise vary, all arts faculty share a passion for their particular art, and they share that passion with their students, helping them develop their skills and sensitivities.

Music professor Karen De Mol describes the joy of making something expressive that is “outside of words.” She says, “There is no end to nuance in music, and probably the other arts as well, so engagement in the arts is always fresh”—and to her, an enjoyable, communal, and beautiful part of her life.

De Mol recalls hearing a conversation between two students a few years back. One talked at length about choosing to be a musician because of the way music exhibits form and balance, relates to culture, embodies different approaches to the aesthetic life, and expresses different cultural values. The other looked at him in amazement and said, “I choose to be in music because music sounds so good!” Music and the arts have room for both kinds of artists.

audience makes a delicious contribution to a performance,” she says. “It was wonderful to see them come off stage with wide eyes full of pure joy from the experience and to see them continue to get better right up until the closing performance.”

“Theater is a gift God gives to the community. It touches people on emotional and intellectual levels,” Ter Haar says. She counts it a privilege to help students discover and develop new talents, growing as individuals as they proceed through a production.

There’s something precious about being part of a production, she adds. It brings a group together for a short period to create and let something live—and then to say goodbye, grateful that they did something well and energized to ask “what’s next?”

Arsenic and Old Lace

Arsenic and Old Lace, this fall’s mainstage theater production, played to appreciative audiences for two weekends in October. Some people from the community even came twice to see the crowd-pleasing comedy.

Dr. Teresa Ter Haar, who directed the production, says the description of comedy as “sweet instruction” emphasizes the valuable role it can play in our world. “Comedy often helps us see something of ourselves in a character on stage and laugh at ourselves a bit as we do,” says Ter Haar.

Ter Haar chose *Arsenic and Old Lace*



“There is no end to nuance in music, and probably the other arts as well, so engagement in the arts is always fresh.”

Karen De Mol



Other art events

Sioux County Folks photography exhibit
Pandamonium Sculpture exhibit
Mozart recital
Puppet workshop
Large ensemble concerts
Jazz concert
Mini organ concert
Poetry readings
Art tour

Named Scholarship Recipients

(continued from previous issue)

Egbert Meyer Memorial Founders Scholarship Krysta Boroski
Allyson Gjeltema
Ryan Groen
Sara Kooyenga
Rebekah Tazelaar
Jessica Van Essen
Krista Van Essen
Shad Vander Plaats
Whitney Vander Plaats

First National Bank Business Scholarship David Vos

Foreign Candy Company Study Abroad Scholarship Jennifer Alkema
Rachel Hamstra

Garry & Delores Zonnefeld Christian Education Scholarship Joelle Sparks Riezebos

Good Shepherd Scholarship Adrea Van De List

H & H Van Klaveren Youth Ministries Scholarship Brandon Huisman
Christopher Van Beek

Harker's Leadership Scholarship Jami Cramer
Staci Kok

Henry & Sadie Buteyn Family Teacher Education Scholarship Jennifer Alkema

Henry De Groot Business Administration Scholarship Rachel Kobes

Heritage Agriculture Scholarship Timothy Beahm

Heritage Communication Scholarship Jennifer Van Wyk

Heritage HPER Scholarship Karissa Phelps

Heritage Teacher Education Scholarship Julie Ooms

Hilda Ozinga Art Scholarship Rachel Bruning Clemens
Pamela Groenewegen
Henk Meijers
Lindsey Shearer

Huisman Minority Student Scholarship Jane Wegener
Kenny Yang

Innotec Engineering Scholarship Rachel Antvelink

Integrity in Business Scholarship Mary Davelaar

Interstates Electric Computer Science Scholarship Bryan Burgers

Interstates Electric Engineering Scholarship Roy Duinink

Jack Grotenhuis Memorial Scholarship Kelsi Schuller

Jake Hop Men's Basketball Scholarship Carlie Landegent

Jake Hop Scholarship Jessica Folkerts

James Albert Klaver Memorial Scholarship Dayna Vreeken

James Koldenhoven Theater Arts Scholarship Roshelle Doornbos

(continued on page 11)

SPORTS

Fall sports wrap up

Mike Byker

Volleyball

The Defender volleyball team rebounded from a 9-8 start to their season by ripping off a pair of eight-match winning streaks as part of a run where they went 19-2 and earned a spot in the NAIA Region III volleyball tournament with a Great Plains Athletic Conference post-season tournament championship.



Lindsey Van Wyk

The run to the title included wins on the road over Briar Cliff and nationally-rated Hastings and Northwestern. The wins over Hastings and Northwestern avenged regular season losses. Dordt finished their season with a 28-11 record.

Lindsey Van Wyk capped her volleyball career at Dordt College by earning all-GPAC first-team honors. Van Wyk averaged 3.7 kills per game and was in the lineup for all 576 games of the 168 matches the Defenders played during her career. She piled up 2569 career digs and 183 ace serves as Dordt went 142-26 in matches

during her four-years on the team. Van Wyk, a Grinnell, Iowa, native, appeared in four NAIA regional tournaments and three NAIA national tournaments.

Kristin De Ronde, a sophomore from Oskaloosa, Iowa, was named first-team all-GPAC and second team all-Region III while leading the Defenders in kills with 4.7 and a kill efficiency of .287. The middle blocker also had 117 blocks this season.

Emily Van Voorst, a junior from Rock Valley, Iowa, earned second team all-GPAC honors after averaging 10.3 assists and 2.6 digs, and Traci Kooima, a senior from Rock Valley, Iowa, earned all-GPAC honorable mention after averaging 6.0 digs and earning NAIA national libero of the week honors this season.

Coach Tom Van Den Bosch also earned a lifetime honor by being inducted into the Iowa High School volleyball coach's Hall of Fame in late November in a ceremony at Carroll, Iowa.

Scholar-athlete honors for volleyball had not been released at the writing of this article.



Traci Kooima

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team advanced to the NAIA Regional tournament level for the sixth year in a row before their season came to an end in the semifinal round of the NAIA Region III tournament. The Defenders were led by Suzanne Clark, who earned All-Great Plains Athletic Conference honors for the second year in a row. The senior from Elm Grove, Wisconsin, was a third-team NAIA all-American in 2005. The national honor teams have not yet been released by the NAIA for this year.

Clark leaves Dordt College in the top-15 all-time in points scored and is sixth all-time in assists. Clark is the first Dordt College women's soccer player to earn all-American honors, and she was a part of a Dordt defense that posted seven shutouts this season.

Also earning post-season honors for the 8-10-1 Defenders was Kate Du Mez. The freshman from Brookfield, Wisconsin, scored five goals and assisted on seven for the Defenders, earning all-GPAC second team honors. Lisa Groen, a junior from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, also earned all-GPAC honorable mention for her work on defense this season.

Post-season honors for the Defenders included NAIA scholar-athlete recognition for Abbie Soodsma, a senior from Hudsonville, Michigan, and Karissa Phelps, a senior from Holland, Michigan.

The Defenders posted a 7-5 conference record this season under Dr. William Elgersma in his fifth year of coaching the Defender women's soccer team.

Men's Soccer

The Defender men returned to the NAIA Regional tournament after a one year absence with a 10-8-1 overall record and an 8-4 GPAC record under head coach Craig Stiemsma.

The Defender men won five out of six games from October 7 to October 24 to solidify an invitation in the NAIA Region III tournament. The lone loss in that stretch was to eventual national champion Graceland by a 3-0 score in Lamoni, Iowa.

Mike Oppeneer, a senior from Hingham, Wisconsin, ended his college career by earning all-GPAC, all-Region, and NAIA honorable mention honors. Oppeneer had seven goals and seven assists this year, ending with 42 career goals, ninth all-time. He also had 20 assists, which gave him 104 total points for his career, seventh all-time.



Mike Oppeneer

Ryan Coon, a junior from Thornton, Colorado, also earned all-GPAC, all-Region and NAIA all-American honorable mention honors for the second year in a row. Coon had 10 goals and two assists for the season and has 32 for his career.

Tim Walstra, a sophomore from Muskegon, Michigan, earned second team all-GPAC honors this season while helping the Defenders allow just 1.52 goals per game.

Chad Nibbelink and Bryan Burgers, a pair of seniors from Sioux Center, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, earned honorable mention honors from the GPAC.

Burgers was also named an NAIA scholar-athlete along with Brandon Vander Wel and Brett Kroeze. Vander Wel is a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Kroeze is from Hull, Iowa.

Cross Country

Two Dordt College cross-country runners earned spots in the NAIA national meet in November. Jen Kempers, a junior from Sioux Center, Iowa, placed sixth at the NAIA Region III meet and 34th out of 268 runners at the national meet, covering the 5,000-meter course in a time of 18:40.

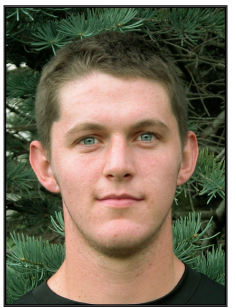
Chelsea Gerdes, a senior from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, qualified for the national meet for the second year in a row after fighting injury all season. Gerdes placed 17th overall at the NAIA Region III meet and 116th at the national meet.

In men's running, Joel De Haan, a junior from Wayland, Michigan, was the top men's finisher at the Region III meet in a time of 26:09, which was good for 23rd place. De Haan had earlier finished in the top 15 at the GPAC meet, good for all-GPAC honors.

Connie Du Mez, a Brookfield, Wisconsin, native, Chelsea Gerdes, and Ryan Swanson were all accorded NAIA scholar-athlete honors at the end of the 2006 season.

NAIA scholar-athletes must be a junior or senior, maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and be nominated for the honor by their coach.

Joel De Haan



Ryan Coon



Chelsea Gerdes



Dordt College, Dakota Christian sponsor hunting excursion

An eight-man hunting excursion in Southwest South Dakota sponsored by Dordt College and Dakota Christian School raised nearly \$15,000 for Christian education. The trip was led by Dave Vander Werf, Dordt's director of planned giving.

The weekend turned up more than roosters. By partnering Dordt's alumni network with the hunting resources offered by Dakota Christian, Vander Werf said participants from Alaska, California, Michigan, and Iowa were treated to a "fantastic hunting experience," while benefiting the two schools.

Half of the proceeds went to Dakota Christian's building fund, while Dordt's share will pay for Rooster Booster Scholarships that will help needy students study at Dordt.

Participants were treated to an all-inclusive weekend, with lodging, meals, hunting guides and dogs, access to private hunting areas, shells, a sporting clays course, a souvenir shirt and cap, and transportation to and from area airports all included in the price.



Participants in the pheasant hunt sponsored by Dakota Christian and Dordt College were (from left) Ralph Roos, Ripon California; Kevin Van Wyk, Pella, Iowa; Ron Van Den Berg, Sioux Center, Iowa; Tom Plooy Anchorage, Alaska; Ron Pagenkopf, Juneau, Alaska; Ken Beukelman, Holland, Michigan; Dave Vander Werf, Sioux Center, Iowa; and Dave Daining, Pella, Iowa.

"Dakota Christian offered tremendous food and hospitality," commented Vander Werf. With true Midwest generosity, Dakota Christian supporters offered their land for hunting, and group meals. Big Sky Hunting and Lodging, a family operated business at Corsica (operated by Randy and Diane Niewenhuis) provided accommodations.

Each of the hunters returned home with their limit of pheasants, making it a successful event for both the participants and the planners.

Experienced hunters who would like information about next year's weekend event are encouraged to contact Vander Werf at davevw@dordt.edu or 712-722-6023.

Thank-a-thon follows phone-a-thon

For forty-seven Dordt College students, the end of the semester also brought the end of nightly calling to supporters of the college. They began the year asking for gifts for the Dordt College Fund. But as the semester progressed, students have also been calling donors to thank them for pledges honored and gifts received.

Students have been blessed by these calls, says Barb Mellema, director of annual giving.

"We recognize that there are many worthy organizations our supporters can give their money to, and we are honored that they share their dollars with us," she explains.

During the thank-you call, students also mention that they begin each evening with prayer—for wisdom to not offend people, and for love not to think of the voice on the other end of the line as a dollar sign. They also ask if supporters have anything they would like included in the prayer. Supporters are often surprised by the calls of thanks, but many are willing to share their prayer requests.

Students listen compassionately to people concerned about loved ones who have died, are sick, or seem to have fallen away from faith; they listen carefully to concerns about



Nate Marcus, Amy Staal, and Brittany Bowar are three of the forty-seven students from three provinces and twelve states who call constituents every Monday through Friday evening, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

peace in the Middle East, safety for soldiers and people in Iraq and Afghanistan, and wisdom for churches reaching out to their communities; they listen thankfully to praise for God's grace and healing in lives; and they listen gratefully to requests for prayer for

Dordt College and its students.

"These students are pulled out of their sometimes close and comfortable life on campus by these requests and begin to feel part of a broader hurting, but saved and redeemed community," says Mellema. "They come to better understand the people whose support helps make their education possible."

Mellema began the thank-you calls after she received such a call from another organization. "I kept expecting the next part—a request for another gift." Instead she had a short conversation with the caller and was better able to see an organization with a mission, not just a caller asking for money. Mellema is conscious that such efforts could be used as a fund-raising gimmick, and she won't deny the importance of the financial support of its constituents. But she also knows the college needs more than financial support and that the Christian community is strengthened as its members work together and care about one another.

One request particularly touched callers recently—thanks for a conversation that made an elderly woman's long evening less lonely. Such conversations help students feel part of something that is bigger than their daily lives.

Named Scholarship Recipients

Jeanie E. Zinkand Memorial International Student Scholarship
Jeriel Melgares

Jeffrey A. Alons Theater Arts Scholarship
Justine Moelker

Jesse Hugen Memorial Scholarship
Megan Boender

Jill Vander Zee Memorial Scholarship
Rebecca Postma

JJR Leadership Scholarship
Elbert Bakker
Jessica Braunschweig
Jonathan De Young
Shiloh Vreeman
Jedediah Womeldorf

Joe J. Dahm Memorial Music Scholarship
Shawndra Beukelman
Bethany Colvin
Melodie VandenBorn
Amy Blok
Heather Hooyer
Christopher Natelborg

Joe's Ready Mix, Inc. Scholarship
Nancy Vander Schaaf

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Business Scholarship
Sara De Bruin
Benjamin Eppinga
Christopher Romkema

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Music Scholarship
Susan LeMahieu
Timothy Van Voorst

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Social Work Scholarship
Bethany Van Dam

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship
Lynette Andree
Sarah Franje
Kimberly Taylor

John & Reona Reinsma Organ Scholarship
Melanie De Young

John B. Hulst Teacher Education Scholarship
Steven Annema
Jenna Vander Woude

John Bosma Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Van Ruler

Len & Lee Rhoda Women's Basketball Scholarship
Amy Prather
Erin Savery

Link Manufacturing Ltd. Engineering Scholarship
Timothy Jabaay
Ashley Prins

Louis & Agnes Kamps Scholarship
Mark Eekhoff

Louis & Johanna Zuiderhof Teacher Education Scholarship
Jana Groenenboom

Louis & Tina Van Dyke History Scholarship
Andrea Dykshoorn

Martin Seven Classics Scholarship
Justin Van Zee

Martin Seven Communication Scholarship
George Den Oudsten

Martin Seven English Scholarship
Jason Elenbaas
Kirbee Tagney

(continued on page 12)

IT'S COMING

DORDT DISCOVERY DAYS

JUNE 25-29, 2007

REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 15; www.dordt.edu/events/ddd

Named Scholarship Recipients

PARENTS WEEKEND

Martin Seven HPER Scholarship
Mandy Visser

Martin Seven Mathematics Scholarship
Erin Van Eps

Mike Vanden Bosch English Scholarship
Julie Ooms

Mildred M. Dupon Memorial Music Education Scholarship
Timothy Vande Griend

Minnie Dahm Medical Technology Scholarship
Amanda Korver
Kelly Van Beek

Minnie J. Dahm Organ Education Scholarship
Karyn Regnerus
Sarah Schaap

Minnie Julia Dahm Premedical Scholarship
Mark Dykstra
Teresa Maas

MTC Foundation Scholarship
Stephanie Davelaar
Benjamin Dirksen
Joy Horstman
Melissa Hulstein
Paul Krygsman
Hillary Marra
Danielle Roos
Jayme Van Beek
Scott Van Voorst
Eric Vande Griend
Allison Wesselius
Matthew Zwart

Nick R. Van Til Scholarship
Jessica Braunschweig

Nick Verbrugge International Student Scholarship
Rebeca Aquino

Pella Business Scholarship
Stephanie Davelaar

Pella Engineering Scholarship
Cody Lieuwen

Presidential Grant for Future Leaders
Todd Bakker
Kenyon Gradert

R.J. Dykstra Business Administration Scholarship
Jordan Henstra

Ralph & Cornelia Gritters Business Scholarship
Kate Van Den Heuvel

Ralph Jennings Family Agriculture Scholarship
Brett Heidema

Ralph Jennings Memorial Agriculture Scholarship
Matthew Geurink

Richard & Henrika Zwart Scholarship
Monique Lieuwen

Rick Vander Berg Men's Basketball Scholarship
Jonathon Ferrie

Ringerwole Piano Scholarship
Amanda Stout

Simon and Lena Prins Memorial Scholarship
Heidi Bouma
Mary Masselink
Katie Vis
Jane Wegener

Sioux Center Municipal Utilities Scholarship
Megan Vonk Haan

Smith Business Information Systems Scholarship
Jacob Compaan

(continued on page 13)

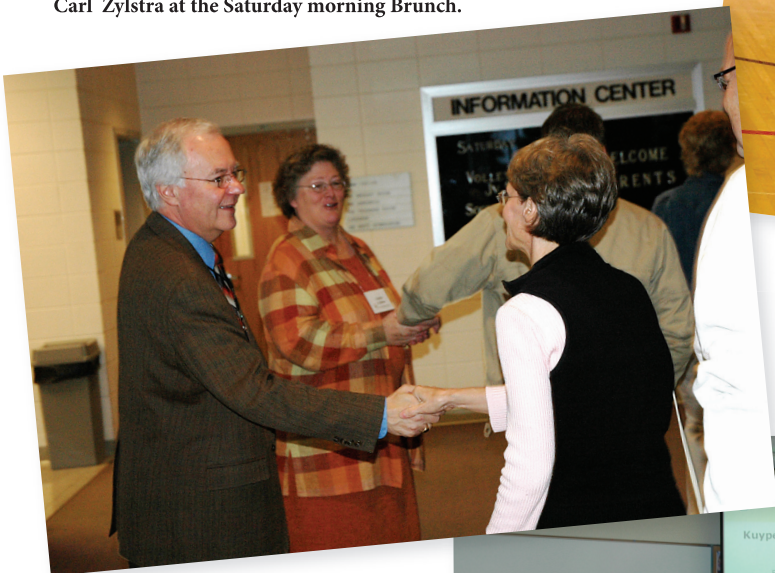


Parents and grandparents had the opportunity to sit in on model classes on Saturday morning. Parents learned about "Modern Bedside Mathematics: Getting Abstract by Flipping your Mattress."



Parents' weekend offered a smorgasboard of sports activities, including basketball, soccer, cross country, volleyball, hockey, and lacrosse.

Over 700 parents were greeted by President and Mrs. Carl Zylstra at the Saturday morning Brunch.



Dr. Mary Dengler and Dr. Tony Jelsma introduced interested parents to the Kuyper Scholars Program, an honors program offered to academically gifted students.



With a schedule that allows parents to choose between several activities at any one time, some grandparents enjoyed finding a quiet place to sit for a while.



In spite of all that goes on, the most important reason parents come to campus is to spend time with their sons and daughters.



In addition to the nearly one thousand parents and grandparents on campus, many high school students and their parents came for a Campus Visit Day over Parents' Weekend.

New alumni council members introduce themselves

Lois (Van Zee) Marra
I graduated from Dordt College in 1984. My husband, Kalen, and I live in Blaine, Minnesota, with our two children, Nick, who is fourteen years old and in the eighth grade, and Hanna, who is thirteen years old and in the seventh grade. I'm currently the secretary at Calvin Christian School (Blaine campus), which I thoroughly enjoy. Our family attends Faith Christian Reformed Church in New Brighton where I am a GEMS helper and involved in an adult Sunday school class. In my spare time (of which there is very little) I enjoy scrapbooking, sewing, hiking, and spending time with my family and friends.

Melody (Olivier) De Wit
I grew up in Sioux Center, graduated from Dordt in 1976 and earned a master's degree in music from University of California at Riverside in 1985. I taught 7th and 8th grades for two years, and have spent nearly three decades teaching music at Western Christian in Hull, Ontario Christian in California, and currently Unity Christian at Orange City, Iowa. I married my high school sweetheart, Jerry De Wit, and we have three wonderful sons: Joel, Elliot, and David. I am on the church leadership board at our church, Rejoice! Community Church Le Mars, Iowa. I love any and all music, I love to read, run, golf, work in the yard, and am just recently addicted to Sudoku. We are thrilled at each of our son's wise choices to attend Dordt; we are big Dordt basketball fans and love all the concerts. It is fun and

Wes Fopma joins advancement staff

The advancement office is pleased to announce that Wes Fopma has recently accepted the position of Director of Alumni and Church Relations and will begin his duties



Wes Fopma

on January 3. Wes is a native of Pella, Iowa, and a 1982 graduate of Dordt College. He served as the Director of Annual Giving at Dordt College from 1993 to 2004. Wes is looking forward to rejoining the advancement team and is eager to get to know alumni across the country. Expect to hear from him in the spring issue of the Voice.

exciting to be a part of this community again in a small way—what a great place Dordt is and was.

Jim Geerstma
I graduated from Dordt with an education degree in 1977, and married Belinda Dieken the following year—after she graduated with a social work degree. We are currently living in Holland, Michigan, and I am in the midst of my thirtieth year of teaching. My wife, Belinda, works for Bethany Christian Services as an International Adoption Specialist. We have four children: a daughter who works for Worldwide Christian Schools, a son in the music business, a son at Calvin College and one in high school. I look forward to working more closely with my alma mater on alumni issues.

Kathy (Visser) Eekhoff
I graduated from Dordt College in 1981 and married Hank Eekhoff ('82) in July of 1982. We now live in Manhattan, Montana. I graduated with a teaching degree in elementary education and physical education and taught fourth grade for four years at Manhattan Christian School. At that point we started our family and an exterior design business. I now work both as a substitute teacher at Manhattan Christian and with the family business. We are also very busy in the ministries of our church and with the local Christian school. Hank and I were blessed with three children: Brian is a junior at Dordt; Mark is a freshman at Dordt, Eric's life on earth ended in a car crash in 2003, and he is now in the presence of Jesus.

Named Scholarship Recipients

- Steensma Engineering Scholarship
Rebecca Mastbergen
- Steensma Music Scholarship
Leah Radde
- Talsma Memorial Premedical Scholarship
Kimberly Deelstra
Daniel Heckmann
- Teachers for Underprivileged Children Scholarship
Steven Shannon
- Trans Ova Agriculture Scholarship
Larissa Arkema
- Vander Ark Family Scholarship
Andrea De Jong
Elizabeth Sohre De Vries
- Vander Haag Computer Science Scholarship
Nathan Mulder
Luke Nieuwsma
Derek Raebel
Justin Struik
- Vander Haag International Student Scholarship
Phoebe Tran
Etson Williams
- Vermeer Agriculture Scholarship
Jeremy Brue
Garrett Hovland
Ryan Johnson
- Vermeer Computer Science Intern Scholarship
Jared Van Wyk
- Vermeer Engineering Intern Scholarship
Aaron De Bruin
- Vermeer Engineering Scholarship
Peter Attema
Peter Hondred
Rebecca Mastbergen
Katiegrace Youngsma
- Vogel Paint Scholarship
Cassie Huizenga

ALUMNI

Dordt offers new on-line resumé service

Heather S. Riblet
Society has seen dramatic changes in the past decades. Advancing technology has crept into nearly every aspect of life, conquering everything from "snail mail" to film cameras. In keeping with this trend, Dordt's Career Services office is packing away its envelopes and stamps. As of mid-September, the office has been collaborating with College Central Network to offer a student-managed on-line résumé program. "The idea of self-managed files requires more responsibility on the part of the students," says Director of Career Services Ron Rynders. "We see this as a good thing, teaching students life skills that they will need to know in years to come." College Central Network, founded in 1996, currently offers its on-line résumé services to nearly 350 small colleges across the country, making it the leading network of small college job seekers. Dordt registered with the network this fall and will continue to employ its services for at least one year. Rynders believes the college, students, and alums—also welcome to register free of charge—will be satisfied with the on-line résumés. When Dordt's Career

Alums who wish to have their files sent to them must notify Ellen Mouw (emouw@dordt.edu) before Jan. 1, 2008. Although the credentials will soon be destroyed, a student's official transcript—the only document that does not become outdated after graduation—will remain on permanent record in the Registrar's office.

Services office did its research on College Central Network, it sought the opinions of other small, Christian colleges. Every one of them, Rynders says, loved the network. "It has turned out to be a very desirable thing. I think the chances of us ever going back to the old system are nil," he says. The Career Services office expects the self-managed résumés to become an effective tool at Dordt for teaching lifelong jobs skills, including basic responsibility. Especially geared toward incoming freshmen, students are expected to stay current with their résumés, updating their records when life experiences occur, such as serving on mission trips or acquiring a new job. When

students take this responsibility seriously, they will have a comprehensive file once they begin applying for internships, jobs, or graduate school. Self-managed résumés also reduce office paperwork. Under the previous system, the Career Services and Placement offices maintained all student records, credential files and résumés. Every student and alum was required to ask for a copy of their records before sending it to future employers. Under the new system, prospective "employers can browse all registered students, accessing their resumes electronically, and contact the students accordingly," Rynders says. Once students register with College Central Network, their résumés are posted on a password-protected job board. All companies must request a password before viewing Dordt's student résumés. The password is provided only after the Career Services office confirms the company's legitimacy. As a result of the push towards electronic operations, Career Services will begin destroying old credential files after Jan. 1, 2008. "We will no longer have office-managed credential files," says Rynders.

Spring Band and Orchestra Tour

- March 15—Lethbridge, AB
- March 16—Sunnyside, WA
- March 17—Lynden, WA
- March 18—Southern BC
- March 21—Salem, OR
- March 22—Boise, ID
- March 23—Manhattan, MT
- March 24—Rapid City, SD
- March 25—Platte, SD
- March 30—Sioux Center, IA

60s

George Fernhout ('69) recently accepted a position with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) and is now located in Sri Lanka as Country Director. George recently was employed with the Aspen Regional Health Authority as the Regional Director of Community Mental Health Services.

80s



▲ **Julie (Ten Haken) Klynsma** ('85) is the daycare director at The Learning Bridge, located in Bridgewater, South Dakota. "Since all of our children were in school, I decided it was time for me to use my skills to better our community. It can be difficult keeping a daycare in a rural community operating due to the lack of children in the community. We strive to keep a nurturing and fun atmosphere for children."

Lynn (De Kruyf) Otto ('84) is a homemaker, homeschools her four children, and writes on the side. Her story, "Cleaning for Beppe," won first place in the Yamhill County (OR) Paper Gardens Writing Contest and was published in the 2006 Paper Gardens Chat Book. She and her husband, Paul, live in Newburg, Oregon.

Paul Otto ('87) is professor of history and chair of the history and political science department at George Fox University. He recently published *The Dutch-Munsee Encounter in America: The Struggle for Sovereignty in the Hudson Valley* (Berghahn Books). Otto has recently been elected to the board of trustees of Providence Christian College in Ontario, California.

Joel Van Gilst ('88) and his brother Bryce received the Iowa Pork Producers Association 2005 All-American Award. The Van Gilsts marketed approximately 25,000 hogs last year.

Elizabeth (Van Gunst, '89) and Paul Arkema ('91) announce the birth of Tressa Elize, born on September 25, 2005, in Muskegon, Michigan.

Dan ('88) and **Amy (Nibbelink, '93) Vande Pol** announce the birth of Katelyn Marie, born April 6, 2006.

Jesse William was born to **Wayne** ('89) and **Emily (De Vries, '92) Huisman** on March 14, 2006.

Chad Brands ('89) was named to the *Best Doctors in America* database, which has received world-wide acclaim for successfully connecting patients to the best medical care in the United States. Chad and his wife, Marla, and their three children live in Rochester, Minnesota, where he is

a consultant in the Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. He is also a member of the core teaching faculty at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and directs the national Mayo Clinic Pediatric Days continuation education course and the third-year medical education in pediatric and adolescent medicine.

90s

Norman ('90) and **Mishela De Boer** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Nina Angelina. She was born at home on August 2, 2006, in Parker, Colorado, and weighed 7 lb., 7 oz. Nina joins older sister Brianna, age 7, and older brothers Michael, age 5, and Benjamin, age 2.

Reed Austin was born to **Vince** ('90) and **Karla Lubben** on February 7, 2006.

Connie Holtrop ('91) adopted twin boys, Mitchell Knight and Jason Lee, on April 5, 2006. Her sons were born on October 25 and 26, 2002. Connie is an employee assistance consultant for Magellan Health Services in St. Louis, Missouri.

Bart and Mary Jane (Vander Esch, '91) Geers announce the birth of Grace JoAnne on April 29, 2006.

Rev. Allen ('91) and **Crysta (Bonestroo, '92) Brummel** added another daughter to their family on November 5, 2005. Alyce Kaye joins brothers Dean (12), Allyn (10), Ethan (9), Brandyn (7), Steven (6), Darren (3), and sister, Crystal (4). Allen continues as pastor of the South Holland Protestant Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois.

Greg and **Rhonda (Gritters, '91) Holstege** have a new daughter, Maci Grace, born August 4, 2006.

Dale ('91) and **Tammy (Baker, '91) Zevenbergen** welcomed Rayanna Liu into their family on March 21, 2006. She was born in Liuzhou, Guangxi, China, on July 15, 2003. Big sisters Jenna (11) and Kylee (9) joined the trip to China to welcome her into the family.

Eric ('92) and **Lori Eekhoff** announce the birth of Emma Marie, on September 22, 2006.

Joshua Kaleb was born to **Kevin** ('92) and Dawn **Zandberg** on March 30, 2006.

Paul Dyk ('92) has been named the dairy and livestock agent for Fond du Lac County University of Wisconsin Extension. Dyk completed a master of science degree in animal science and biology from Michigan State University in 1995.

John ('92) and Christina **Van Dyk** announce the birth of Nathaniel William on April 30, 2006.

Curtis ('92) and Robbyn **Horstman** welcomed Sara Elaine on February 13, 2005, and Benjamin Lee on March 20, 2006. They join older sister Abbi.

Reuben Stephen was born on August 11, 2006, to **Stephen** ('93) and Patti **Atsma**. "He is doing great and is a joy to add to our family."

Kevin ('91) and Kristin **Jansma** are proud to announce the adoption of Brielle Anbrena, born on February 20, 2006. Brielle was adopted at the age of one week.

Douglas Fedders ('94) and Kelli Wright are happy to announce their marriage on July 15, 2006. They live in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Joel ('95) and **Valerie (Gritters, '95) Minderhoud** had another daughter, Lindsay Nicole, born July 18, 2006.

Matthew and **Carla (Zevenbergen, '96) Eenigenburg** announce the birth of their daughter, Maria Kathleen, born on October 29, 2006. She is welcomed by siblings Anika (6), Brandon (4) and Jessica (2).

Valerie (Wigboldy, '96) and Dane Moll announce the birth of Case Douglas, born on November 10, 2006, in Visalia, California. Proud siblings are Nathan (9) and Nicholas (6).

Mark and **Melissa (Groen, '97) De Witt** had a baby girl, Ashlyn Nicole, on October 22, 2006. She joins her two brothers, Tanner (5) and Sawyer (3).

Heather Lillian (Hamilton, '97) Omand is celebrating her first major success as a government affairs attorney at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C. The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 was signed into law by President Bush on October 13. Lillian played a key role in shaping and lobbying for this law on behalf of the National Football League.

Lora (Byker, '98) Copley writes, "Copley Family Update: moved from Rehoboth, New Mexico, to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Joel is pursuing his Masters in Education Administration, and Lora is ministering as an associate pastor in a local CRC church. Our two preschool boys (John and David) keep us hopping!"

Luke ('98) and **Karla (Haagsma, '99) Vander Leest** announce the birth of Kaitlyn Joy on July 14, 2006.

Mark ('98) and **Karla (Rickey, '99) Schlatter** announce the birth of Erik Christian, born on July 26, 2006.



▲ **Julie (Visser, '99) and Dan Droog** ('98) announce the birth of Eden Christine, born on July 6, 2006, in Houston, Texas.

Mark ('99) and Alison **Vander Ley** announce the birth of Hutson Louis, born on December 4, 2005, in Modesto, California. Mark recently finished a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. They have moved to Branson, Missouri, where Mark works as a counselor at a residential treatment center for teens.

Matthew ('99) and Susan **Nelson** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Fiona Ali. She was born on May 16, 2006, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

00s

Erin (Staal) ('00) and Paul Voortman are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Brooklyn Daune. She was born on October 3, 2006, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, a little sister for Owen.



▲ **Patricia Weg** ('00) and Michael Peuse announce their marriage on October 14, 2006, in Gilbert, Arizona. They currently live in Chandler, Arizona.

Britanie Hartman ('00) married Kevin Summerhays on January 21, 2005, in Lake Tahoe, California. Their son, Jacob Hart, was born on March 11, 2006, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Amy Van Dam ('00) and Corwin Runia were married on July 22, 2006, in Leota, Minnesota. They live in Melvin, Iowa.

Alyssa (De Ruyter, '00) and Karl Bos announce the birth of Kayla Joy born on August 22, 2006, in Bellingham, Washington. Kayla joins her sister, Jasmine, who will be three in January.

Tyler Wayne was born to **Kevin** ('01) and **Jody (Kas, '01) Rozenboom** on May 30, 2006.

Brandie Ochsner ('01) and Joel Vande Werken announce their marriage, which was celebrated on August 5, 2006, in Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, Nebraska. They live in Griffith, Indiana.

Dalton Dallas was born to Mark and **Amanda (Braam, '01) Flikkema** on August 8, 2006.

Sandra (Faber, '01) and Garry Nyenhuis ('04) announce the birth of Elijah Dean, born on October 3, 2006, in Mankato, Minnesota.

Kristen Nishimoto ('02) and Jon Stoker are happy to announce their marriage, which took place on June 17, 2006, in Honolulu, Hawaii. They currently live in Ankeny, Iowa.

Laura (Schippers, '02) and Steve Kleinheksel are proud to announce the birth of Bennett Lee. He was born on November 12, 2006, in Holland (Michigan) Hospital.

Kelly ('02) and **April (Te Grootenhuis, '02) Crull** have a new baby girl. Alleke Grace (Ali) was born on Octboer 3, 2006, in Spain. Kelly writes, "I suppose it was no surprise that the hospital staff kept telling us how blonde she was."


Amanda Nunnikhoven ('02) married **Chris Lighthiser** ('03) on August 19, 2006.

Sandra (De Jong, '04) and Mark De Vries ('04) announce the birth of Andrew Mark, born on July 25, 2006, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The De Vrieses now live in Sully, Iowa.

Aaron ('04) and Elise **Wagenaar** had a baby girl, Eva Maraaike, on September 2, 2006.

Mark De Vries ('04) and **Nathan Jensema** ('05) recently passed the CPA exam. Mark earned his master's from the University of Iowa, and Nate was the outstanding Dordt accounting graduate in 2005. Both work for RSM McGladrey in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Steve ('05) and **Tara (De Vries, '05) Dekkers** had a son, Kian Isaiah, on August 5, 2006.



**SANDHILLS TO BLACK HILLS
A LEARNING VACATION**

THE GREAT PLAINS EXPERIENCE 2 A SEQUEL

JUNE 3-9, 2007

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DIANNE DE WIT
712-722-6029 OR ddewit@dordt.edu**



The Family Farm

Jason and Yvonne Kimm grow seed potatoes with a difference

Sally Jongsma

When Jason Kimm ('98) came to Dordt College in 1994, he wasn't sure if he wanted to be a pilot, a doctor, or a farmer. He had already earned his pilot's license in high school, and in college he worked as an EMT. He also took agriculture courses. Eventually, the fourth-generation Montana potato farmer opted to go into his family's farming business.

"It was the lifestyle I wanted for my family," he says. He couldn't shake memories and images of going out with his father and grandfather on the tractor, spending long hours together. "I wanted to spend that kind of time with my kids," he says. Today his two-year-old son, Willem, rides the tractor with him, and even eight-month-old Benjamin has been in the field with his parents.

Yvonne (Vaags, '98) Kimm also grew up on a farm. Her family ran a 1200-head feedlot in Manitoba, and she used to joke that she came to Dordt for her Mrs. Degree. She got it, but also much more. After teaching high school English for five years at Manhattan Christian School, she now works with Jason on the family farm in Manhattan, Montana.

They both say that the emphasis on caring for God's good creation and their professors' challenge to let their faith shape their actions made a big difference in who they are and what they do today.

Something else shaped Jason and Yvonne. In 1997, while country swing dancing during college, they performed a move that landed Yvonne on the floor and in the hospital for a month. Jason believes that the sense of responsibility and stress he felt triggered several years of health problems. Doctors diagnosed him with ulcerative colitis. Sick all the time and having exhausted his medical options, he eventually changed his diet to more "whole foods" and focused on the nutritional therapy he believes his body needed to heal itself. Within one month he was feeling better, and within six months he was a new person.

Jason and Yvonne's switch to eating mostly local, organically grown food also



Jason and Yvonne Kimm and their boys all ride the roguing cart in the potato field in the summer. Benjamin, nestled asleep in the snuggly, and Willem, perched in front of Jason, join three family members who ride the rows looking for any sign of diseased plants. If they find any, they dig the plant, potatoes and all.

1960s, they turned to seed potatoes. "This part of creation is exceptionally well suited for growing potatoes," Jason says. Disease is relatively low because of the cooler temperatures, and there are opportunities to collaborate with the Montana State University in developing new and better ways to farm.

But even in good conditions, potatoes are more susceptible than many plants to

attends conferences and workshops, reads and studies, collaborates with Montana State, and conducts his own research and testing on his farm. His Dordt education has served him well, he says.

He began with compost tea. Although skeptical at first, he says he's had fantastic results in disease suppression and overall plant health. One of his neighbors, who had his crop heavily damaged by hail,

minerals like selenium and manganese. These he obtains through dehydrated ocean water, which has a balanced mineral content and living organisms that seem to make the soil more fertile and plants more disease resistant. To supply his farm and others who are interested, he's begun his own business, Kimm TEA (Total Environmental Application).

The results have been fantastic, he says. "We had to put out some extra money to convert to ecological agriculture, but the cost is not so much greater that you can't do it if you are committed to the process. You can see benefits economically in about three to five years."

"It comes down to choices," Jason and Yvonne say. They don't value expensive electronics and furniture as much as they value good food and healthy eating. "Everybody likes coming to our home for a meal," they say with a chuckle. Their choices include having a huge garden that feeds them summer and winter, with Yvonne balancing gardening, caring for the children, and preserving food for the year.

Jason and Yvonne laud the growing awareness of the effects of food choices on health, although they are concerned about our culture's disconnectedness with where their food comes from.

"If you have to face the people you feed, you're likely to be very careful," says Jason. Although his family farm originally worked with Monsanto, he's come to believe that genetically modifying plants and using high inputs of pesticide is not the way he wants to feed people. He attributes that conviction to what he learned at Dordt College, even though as a student he was favorably inclined to using chemicals and genetically modified crops.

"I learned that this is God's creation, and we have responsibility for treating it well," he says.

Today he is testing his crops and doing genetic selecting. He has a microscope in his office and tests his potatoes and wheat for antioxidant levels—for lutein (beneficial for the eyes), for heavy metals, and for the increasingly prevalent microtoxins that research has shown thrive in conventionally-treated crops. He's learned that the pH and brix (sugar levels) of his potatoes, as well as in such things as oranges and other fruits, have a lot to do with insect and disease resistance. Getting the right biology and chemistry in his soil has made a huge difference.

Jason is the first to admit that he doesn't have the answers to a lot of things connected to farming, but he's learned enough to be committed to learning more. He is working together with his family: father, Bill; uncle, Scott; brother, Mark; and brother-in-law, Alan Venema—Scott, Mark, and Alan also attended Dordt.

"We love life," says Yvonne. "It's a privilege to work as an extended family each day, doing something you love."

"I get very passionate about this," Jason adds. "What could be more fulfilling than taking care of the land and the bodies God has given us?"

"If you have to face the people you feed, you're likely to be very careful"

affected how they wanted to farm. They saw a connection between their health and what they've come to see as healthier food. They believed they could help make that same connection for people who buy their food.

My grandfather often said, "Take care of the soil and the soil will take care of you," Jason says. He believes that adage passionately.

The Kimm family farm has grown potatoes for four generations, and in the

disease—and seed potatoes, especially, cannot carry traces of disease with them. Jason's commitment to what he calls whole food led him to study how to grow seed potatoes without relying so heavily on chemical inputs.

"The creation is such an amazing thing," he says. "Different parts are so interconnected; we need to continually be learning how they connect and balance."

And that's what he does. Jason regularly

applied compost tea to half of his field and conventional fertilizers to the other half. "He saw a difference in three days and went to compost tea for his whole field for the rest of the year. In addition, he harvested around a thousand pounds more on the half-field that was treated originally."

By using compost tea, Jason has decreased significantly his use of NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) fertilizers and increased amounts of trace

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1606 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu.

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EVENTS

Art

Jan. 1 – 14	Dordt - Northwestern student show
Jan. 19 - Feb. 4	Junior Art Show
Feb. 7 – Mar. 4	Alumni Art exhibit - Sam Gutierrez & Chloe Hilden, artists' reception Friday, Feb. 16, 6:30pm
March and April	Senior Art Shows

Campus Activities

Jan. 12	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue, Route 66, Part II (BJH)
Jan. 18	11:00 a.m.	Convocation (BJH)
Feb. 10	8:30 – 3:30	Day of Encouragement (BJH)
Feb. 16, 17		Alumni Weekend
Mar. 15	12:05	Spring Break begins
Mar. 15, 16		B.J. Haan Education Conference (Campus Center)
Mar. 16	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue, Vietnam (BJH)
Mar. 27		Classes Resume
Mar. 19, 20		Board of Trustees Meetings
Mar. 25	7:30 p.m.	Senior Engineering Design Presentations
Mar. 27	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue, Israel and Jordan (BJH)

Music

<i>Events in B.J. Haan Auditorium</i>		
Jan. 25	7:00 p.m.	Northwest Iowa Honors Orchestra
Feb. 3	7:30 p.m	NISO Winter Pops Concert
Feb. 13	7:00 p.m	Northwest Iowa Honors Choir Concert
Mar. 9	7:30 p.m.	Campus Community Band and Jazz Band Concert
Mar. 13	7:30 p.m	Choral Concert
Mar. 30	7:30 p.m.	Concert Band/Chamber Orchestra Concert

Theater

<i>Events in Te Paske Theatre</i>		
Feb. 22-24	7:30 p.m.	Spring Show, <i>As It is in Heaven</i>
Mar. 1, 2, 3	7:30 p.m.	Spring Show, <i>As It is in Heaven</i>

Sports

<i>Events shown are home games</i>		
Jan. 3	6:00 PM	WBB vs. Mount Marty
	8:00 PM	MBB vs. Mount Marty
Jan. 17	6:00 PM	WBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
	8:00 PM	MBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Jan. 19	7:00 pm.	Hockey vs. USD
Jan. 20	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. USD
Jan 24	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Morningside
	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Morningside
Jan. 27	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Northwestern
	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Northwestern
Feb. 2	TBA	Hockey vs. Creighton
Feb. 3	TBA	Hockey vs. Creighton
Feb. 3	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Doane
	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Doane
Feb. 7	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. USF
	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. USF
Feb. 9	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. SDSU
Feb. 10	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. SDSU
Feb. 10	1:00 p.m.	WBB vs. North Central
	3:00 p.m.	MBB vs. North Central
Feb. 16	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. UNL
Feb. 17	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. UNL
Feb. 17	1:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Dana
	3:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Dana
Feb. 20 – 27		Basketball Playoffs
Feb. 23, 24		Hockey Playoffs

THE VOICE

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Stats students connect with life

Dordt students experience simulated poverty

Graphic artists research ballot designs